

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following is provided in response to the Office communication of November 1, 2005.

The Examiner stated in the Office communication that Amendment C filed on August 4, 2004 is not fully responsive to the Office Action of May 5, 2004 because Applicant has failed to substantively address the rejection of claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 25 as set forth in paragraph 15 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection set forth in paragraph 15 was addressed in Amendment C. In particular, applicants argued that claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14, and 25 are not obvious in view of the references cited, and specifically discussed the Wendelbo et al. reference (see pages 9-11 of Amendment C).

Applicants further submit that the Guan et al. and Borade et al. references are not prior art with regard to the rejection set forth in paragraph 15 of the Office Action. The Guan et al. and Borade et al. patents are both assigned to Symyx Technologies, Inc., which is the same assignee as the subject patent application. The American Inventors Protection Act (AIPA) amended 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) to exclude subject matter developed by another person which qualifies as prior art under Section 102(e), provided that this subject matter and the claimed invention were commonly owned at the time the claimed invention was made. This amendment to Section 103(c) applies to patent applications filed on or after November 29, 1999. (American Inventors Protection Act of 1999, Pub. L. No. 106-113, Sec. 4807(b)). The subject patent application was filed on October 17, 2000. Guan et al. issued on November 21, 2000 and Borade et al. issued on May 28, 2002. The subject invention was commonly owned with the subject matter of the Guan et al. and Borade et al. patents at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Guan et al. and Borade et al. are not prior art. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10, 12-14, 19, 21, and 23-29 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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